

**III. REMARKS**

1. Claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 24, 30 and 31 are amended. Claim 32 is new. Claims 2, 3 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice.

2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 9 and 11-14.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 3. Claim 1 and claims 4-23 and 29 should now be allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 are amended to correct grammatical errors.

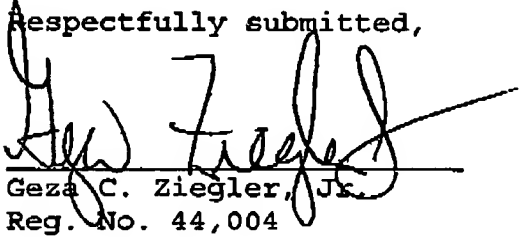
Claims 24, 30 and 31 have been amended to include features corresponding to the allowable features of amended claim 1. Claims 25 and 26 should also be allowable in view of the changes.

Claim 32 is new, representing the combination of claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9, which was indicated as allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of \$88 for an additional independent claim fee as well as any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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12 November 2004  
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below.

Date: 12 November 2004

Signature: Marghan Baye